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Attorney Docket No: VECT-p02-003  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Peter D. Harney )  
Serial No.: 09/220,398 ) Group Art Unit: 1655  
Filed: December, 24 1998 ) Examiner: Jezia Riley  
For: *Methods and Kits for Preparing* )  
*Multicomponent Nucleic Acid Constructs* )

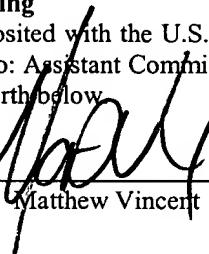
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9/26/01

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Sep 26, 2001

By:

  
Matthew Vincent

**RESPONSE**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 20, 2001, Applicant submits the following comments amendments in this request for reconsideration.

**In the Claims**

Please amend claim 1, 4, 11, 31 and 39-42 as follows:

*Sub  
Dy*  
1. (Amended) A method of linking nucleic acid components in a predetermined order to produce a nucleic acid multicomponent construct, comprising:

*C'*  
(a) providing at least two nucleic acid components, each comprising at least one genetic element providing a functionality and at least one single stranded 5' or 3' terminal sequence, the terminal sequence having sufficient complementarity to either a terminal sequence in [a separate]